Underground cables in Bihar Sharif Sub-Division

2488. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 220 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that underground cables were laid in 1996 for Kakaila village because DET, Bihar Sharif Sub-Division is a resident of that village;

(b) whether Government are also aware that other villages where telephones were working earlier than 1996 were connected with underground cable much later;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether discriminatory action of DET are badly harming the interests of the area;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to remove the concerned DET; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The underground cable in village Kakaila was not laid in the year 1996. It was laid in 1999 alongwith villages Bhagwanpur and Lodhipur based on the waiting list.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, Prior to the year 1996, a Long Distance Public Call Office (LDPCO) was working in village Mirchaiganj on overhead lines from Nalanda exchange. Underground cable could not be laid to this village because the village is located beyond the local area of the exchange at a distance of 8 kms. from the exchange.

(d) There is no discriminatory action on the part of concerned DET.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to para (d) above.

Mirchaiganj's connection with Nalanda Exchange

2489. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 220 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mirchaiganj was sometimes back connected by overhead telephone line with Nalanda Exchange;

(b) whether a telephone was installed in the Mirchaiganj post office which was functional for long even before Kakaila was connected with Nalanda;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the circumstances leading to Mirchaiganj now being declared as NTF area and farther from Nalanda Exchange;

(e) whether DET who is a resident of Kakaila village is instrumental to deprive Mirchaiganj of a telephone connection; and

(f) if so, action Government would take against officers concerned in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There was a Long Distance Public Call Office (LDPCO) working in Mirchaiganj post office from Nalanda Exchange on overhead lines before Kakaila was connected with Nalanda exchange.

(d) There was a heavy breakdown of this overhead alignment in 1993-94, which could not be repaired. Further, since Mirchaiganj post office is beyond the local area of Nalanda exchange, it could also not be replaced with underground cable. Now, it has been planned to connect this village from the proposed Dahpur exchange or on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) from Nalanda exchange, whichever comes earlier.

(e) and (f) No, Sir, In view of the reply to para (d) of above.

Overcharging by Service Providers in A.P.

2490. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Andhra Pradesh gullible Telecom customers are forced to pay large amounts to prime rate service providers, who register their names with the Telecom Department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pulse rate to be charged is decided by the service providers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the facility is being misused for "Chat Service"; and